

Child Impact Statement for:

Youthbuilders pilot

CIS ID#: uofpvwp4

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CIS authors assessing their own effort

The impact on children directly or indirectly affected by the effort will be:

Positive

The effort will increase resources, services, or facilities that provide access to or protection of assets children need in order to prosper.



Evaluation

Concerns:

Children and youth in Memphis are growing up in one of the most dangerous cities in America. In 2007, Memphians saw more than 10,000 violent crimes, 2.64% more than the national average, including 438 forcible rapes and 126 homicides. More than 56% of local violent crime was domestic-violence related, most involving families with children.

That same year, 20% of victims treated by the Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center (MSARC) were ages 10-14 with the number of unreported victims much higher, as is the national trend. The 2003 Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Survey of Memphis City Schools (MCS), students grades 9-12, found that 11% of boys and almost 13% of girls had experienced dating violence while more than 7% of boys and 15% of girls had been forced to have sexual intercourse. In 2005 MCS students reported that nearly 15% had been physically hurt on purpose by a partner in the last 12 months. Among middle school students, 71.5% had been in a physical fight.

Justification:

Based on the results of that Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Survey administered by the Memphis and Shelby County Youth Development Collaborative to City and County School systems' middle school students in 2007, there clearly appeared the need to bring information to the community about those assets or positive characteristics needed by youth for their positive development as indicated by findings from this survey research.

Goals:

The Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth (SCOECY) proposes to sponsor and facilitate a pilot project to establish the feasibility and requirements for creating an on-going community corps of volunteers, the Shelby County YouthBuilder Corps (YBC). The YBC would be comprised of a diverse cadre of engaged youth, adults and organizations in conducting outreach activities that apply the principles of the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets to increase community-wide assets youth need for their positive development.

Actions:

SCOECY would enlist a group of volunteers already trained in 2007 by the Search Institute through the YDC's previous initiative to support a pilot group of stakeholders in responding to the needs indicated by the Search Institute survey.

Though this process, the SCOECY would be able to test the feasibility of a grass-roots infrastructure that would be on-going and continuously expanding its engagement of stakeholders through an "each one reach five" outreach strategy.



Benefits:

This pilot would build on the previous work of the Youth Development Collaborative (YDC) done in 2007 in bringing the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets work to Shelby County.

Research

Safety involves the shared responsibility of citizens and government to reduce, prevent, and respond to threats, injuries, and the many forms of emergency. It also involves crime—that committed against children and that committed by children, youth, and young adults. Given the greater risk of injury and early death in higher-crime areas, safety is an essential pre-condition for a child's physical health. Tragically, it's the youngest children who suffer the most—from intentional and accidental homicides to neglect, abuse, endangerment, and abandonment. Child safety is therefore absolutely necessary for successful outcomes in early childhood development. And while responsible parenting, good schools, and access to nutritious food and preventative healthcare are undeniably essential for positive child well-being, these assets would be severely jeopardized without public safety providers. Reduction and prevention of crime and injury, expert response to emergencies, enforcement of environmental protections, and development and sustainment of productive alternatives for all youth protect homes and family environments, promote education, and reduce extreme forms of stress that can lead to mental & behavioral health disorders. Safety also draws investment and jobs, which positively impact family income, career opportunities, and economic development. Education involves K-12 instruction and college and job readiness. Like early childhood development, education is a key child well-being driver of economic development. Educational attainment impacts the amount of family income youth will later generate as adults and therefore the contributions they will make to the economic well-being of the region. And since most working parents obtain health insurance through an employer, education also provides access to quality health and mental & behavioral health services. Educational attainment is also intertwined with safety, because middle-income families are exposed far less to violent crime when compared to impoverished and low-income families. Education, therefore, has a tremendous impact on the security and stability of the home and family environment. Children require stimulating and challenging K-12 educations that emphasize academic preparation and student success. They excel in schools where safety is assured and where they are taught by highly trained and highly committed teachers in a developmentally appropriate curriculum. And children return cost-saving and revenue-generating benefits to the community as their continuous advancement leads to graduation, higher education, and gainful employment. (Center for Urban Child Policy. 2008. Memphis: The Urban Child Institute)

Conditions, without interventions, can worsen given data trends as reported by the Urban Child Institute, especially for those students with little resiliency and higher risk.

There are multiple ongoing direct efforts throughout the community by local government, non-profit youth serving organizations, Colleges and Universities, as well as faith organizations.

n/a

